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MARYLAND FISHERIES

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TROUTING IN MARYLAND STREAMS

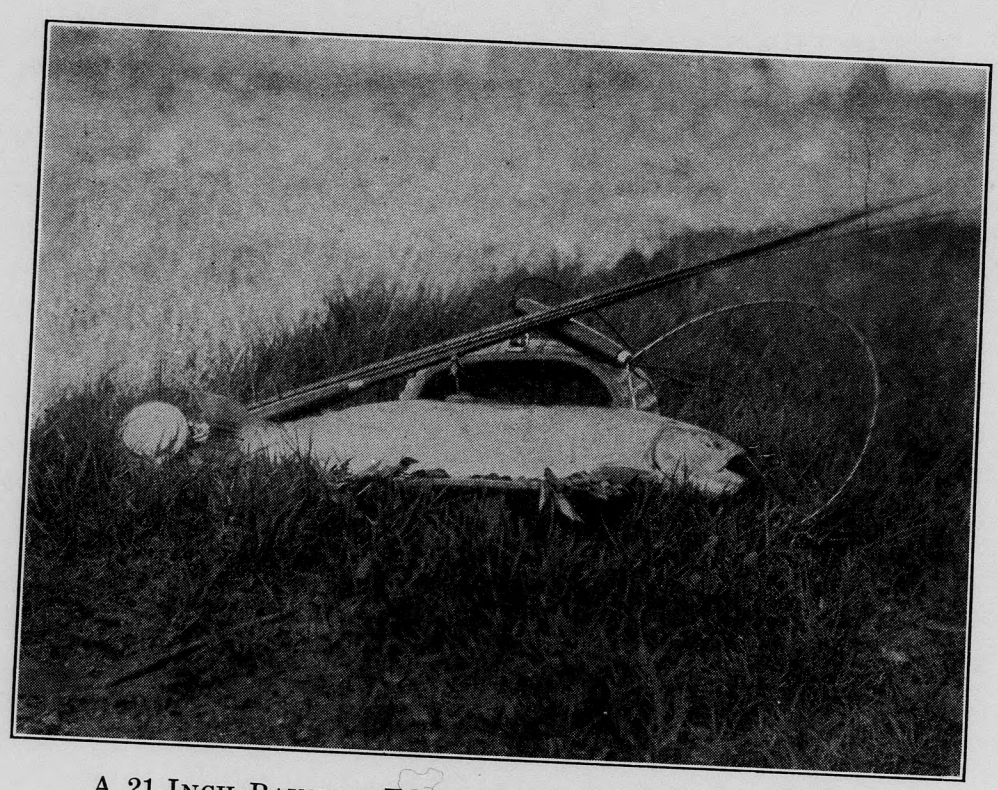
By HERBERT MACCUBBIN,

President, Baltimore Sportsman's Chapter, Izaak Walton League

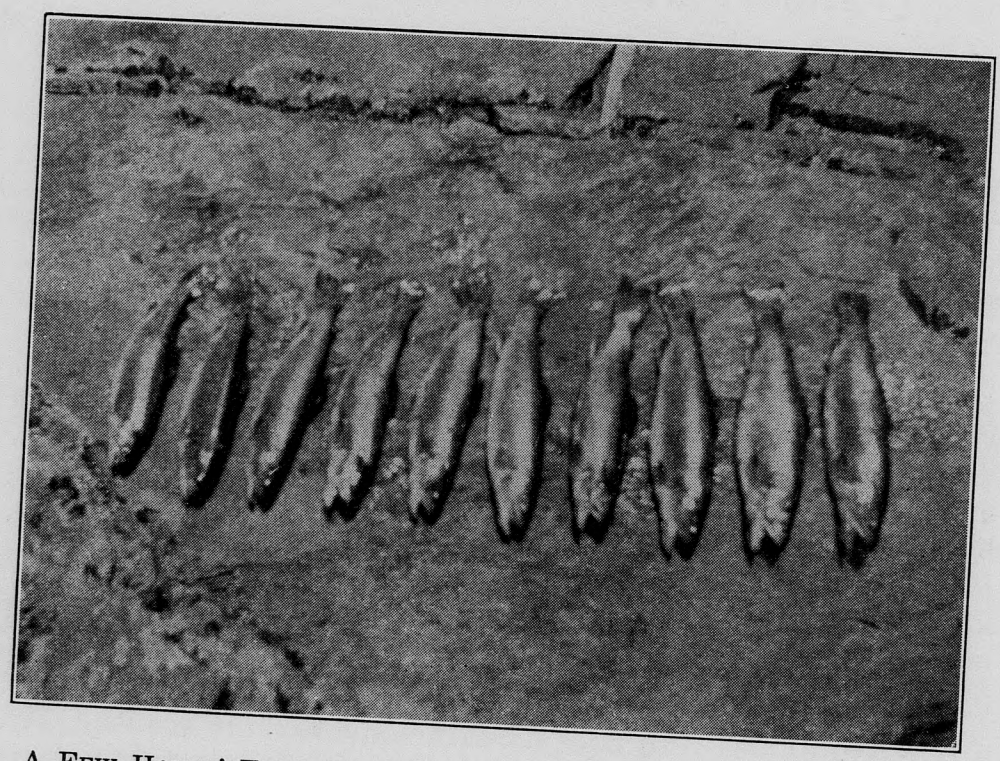
THE YEAR 1932 shows a marked improvement with regard to the trout situation in Maryland streams. Never before have I been so successful in catching big trout. The smallest brook measured 9½ inches, and the largest fish, a gorgeous rainbow, 24 inches and weighed around five pounds.

Opening day found Frank Smoot and myself the guests of President McFaddin, of the Hagerstown Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. You will remember that the opening day immediately followed a solid week of rain. Streams were muddy, high, east winds prevailed, and conditions generally were bad. However, we landed four fine trout, the smallest 14 inches long, and we lost at least nine big ones, due to leaders parting, one hook being straightened out, and one hook broken in two by large, fighting trout. Hard to believe, but true.

Yes, St. James Run does contain some *he-man* trout. Mr. Smoot and I examined the catches of many other fishermen that day, and the smallest trout found measured 10 inches, and the largest, 20 inches.



A 21-INCH RAINBOW TROUT CAUGHT IN CONOWINGO LAKE



A FEW HOURS' FISHING IN FISHING CREEK PRODUCED THIS RESULT

One week later Fishing Creek netted me the limit after seven hours of intensive fishing. Ten fine trout—the smallest, a native 9½-inch brook, and the largest, a fat, 13-inch rainbow. One week later, in the Worthington Valley, I caught five trout, all brooks, but three of them natives, a fine indication that they are living and propagating. The smallest native was 10 inches and the largest brook measured 13 inches.

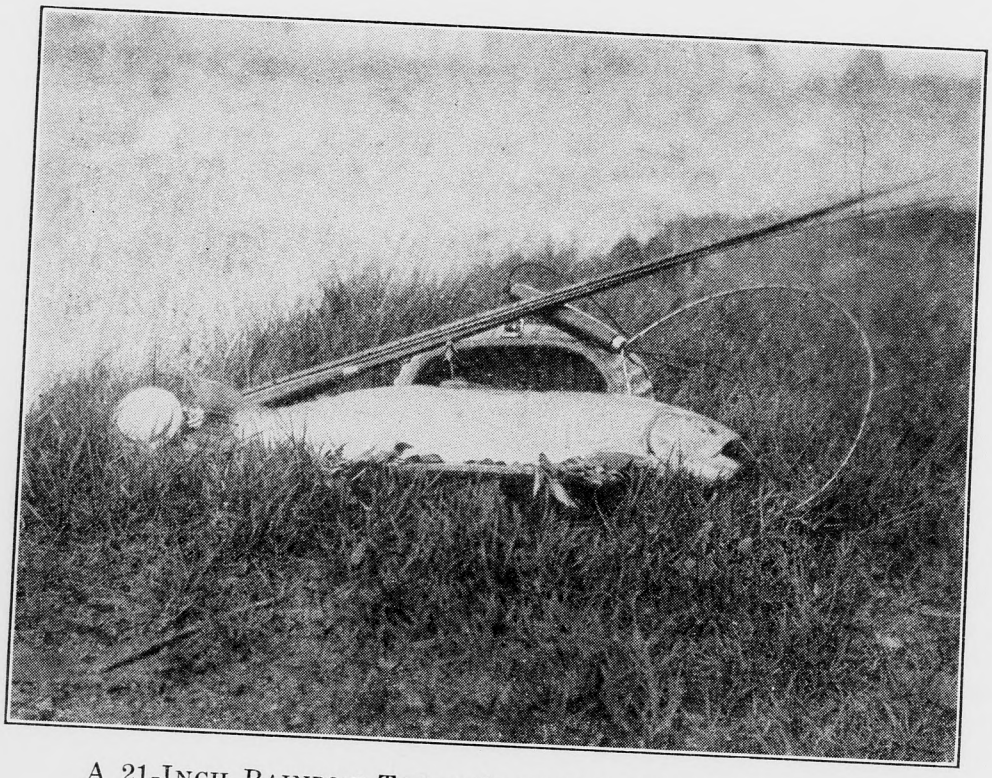
A tributary of Deer Creek in Harford County allowed me to creel three fair-sized trout in exactly three hours of intensive fishing.

Back to St. James Run, Mr. Smoot, Millard Ford and I ran into some more beauties, Ford catching two and I two. My largest, 17 inches, and Ford's smallest was 11 inches. It was here that one leaping beauty broke off the tip of my lightweight casting rod at the ferrule, and when I attempted to "handline" him in, he straightened out the hook and regained his freedom.

But my prize so far this season was the rainbow that took a dusty miller as it gaily floated down a small feeder stream into Lake Conowingo. Why this boy didn't choose the Lake I cannot say, for he measured 21 inches in length and weighed five pounds, less one ounce.

A study of every angler observed on these trips convinced me that the reason most of them fail to catch trout is because they fish entirely too fast; do not cover *all* water, and are too easily discouraged. For instance, in St. James Run several weeks ago, a non-resident angler and I started out together, fishing down-stream. He entered the stream first, and after a few minutes I became so absorbed in one spot he had just fished, that I completely forgot him in my interest in the proper drifting of my "garden hackle." The result of 15 minutes of diligent fishing of this "hole" (which was not over 50 feet long) was first a rise, then a hooked trout, which when landed measured 14½ inches. I called out, "How's this one?" and looked around just in time to see my previous companion rounding a bend in the stream nearly a half-mile away. Continuing down-stream behind him, I took three more beauties, none under 14 inches long.

Later in the day I met the same angler, and his catch was still zero. Patience and more intensive fishing would have netted him at least a pair of 14-inch trout, which I later took. I feel the blame is either on the angler, weather conditions, or both, for I know *big* trout are in the streams waiting to take *properly presented* worms, flies, bugs, or minnows, either natural or artificial.



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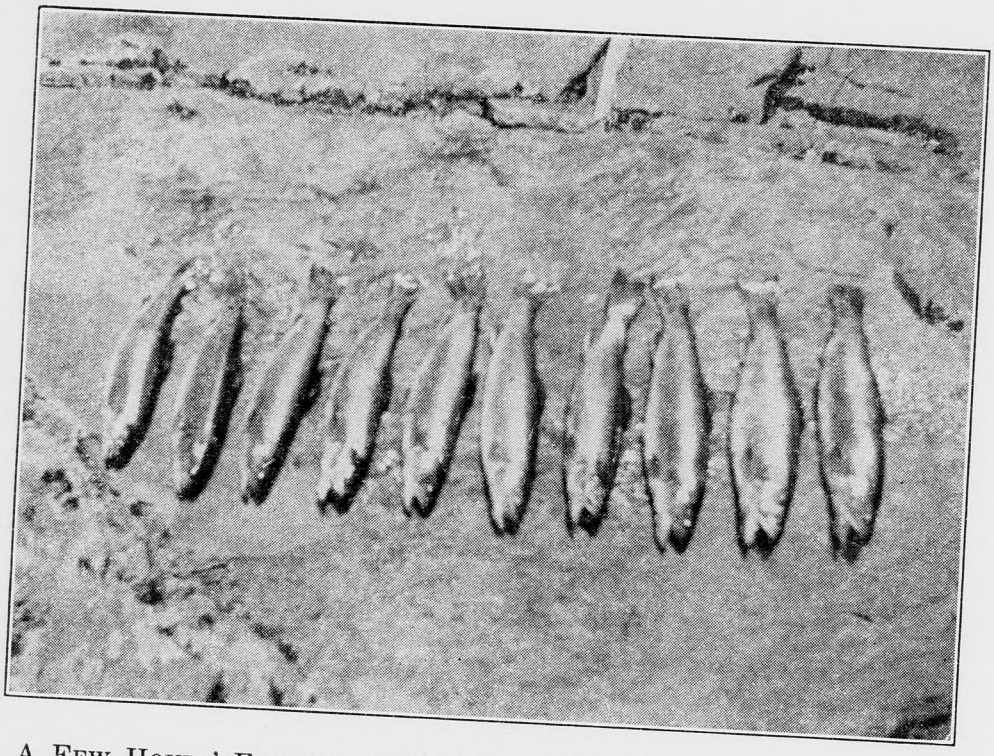

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Since the opening of the season, I have gone trouting exactly eight times, twice in the vicinity of Hagerstown, once in Fishing Creek, once in Little Hunting Creek, once in Jones Falls, twice in a tributary of Deer Creek, and once in a feeder stream of Conowingo Lake. Eight trout were creeled at Hagerstown, ten at Fishing Creek, four came out of Little Hunting Creek, three from old Jones Falls, three from the Deer Creek section, and two from Conowingo—a total of 30 trout taken in eight trips. Every trip thoroughly satisfactory to this angler! I would hesitate to give the size of trout caught were it not for the fact that either Millard Ford, Frank Smoot or both of these gentlemen were with me upon each occasion.

Rainbows	1—21 inches long. 12—13 to 15 inches long.
Brooks	13—13½ to 14½ inches long. 2—10 to 13 inches long. 1—9 inches long.
Browns	1—9½ inches long.

Yes, there are trout, and real ones, in Maryland streams.

Trout fishing in Maryland is now a reality. Approximately 25,000 adult trout have been released in Maryland streams by the Conservation Department, and there are plenty left to be caught before the close of the season. The policy of planting legal-sized fish or better has proved itself worthy, though costly, and anglers of Maryland may expect more and bigger trout, as the many adults which escape the frying pan live, grow, and propagate.

Take out the old map, work off the streams where trout were liberated this season, *fish slowly and deliberately,* and you too, will be thrilled by hooking into some Maryland HE-MAN trout.

They are there!

OYSTER PRODUCERS CONSIDER RETAIL FIELD

From *Fishing Gazette.*

THE OYSTER SEASON of 1931-1932 indicated at the beginning that producers would receive a fair remuneration for their crops. Less than 10 days after the opening prices showed a downward tendency and before 30 days had passed prices on all sizes of oysters showed a decline of 50 cents per gallon.

At Thanksgiving oysters were selling on an average of a dollar less per gallon than the prevailing prices of the previous year. There was a heavy falling off in the demand, probably 45% to 50%, which meant a money loss in sales of practically $1,000,000 to the Northern oyster industry. If the lower

prices had been passed on to the consumers by the retailers it is likely that many more oysters would have been used. Fish dealers, unlike retailers on other lines of food, feeling that they have only a couple of days a week to do business, hold up prices to the consumers.

While the Northern oyster dealers secured a set in late August, 1931, it was only a moderate one, some grounds producing nothing. There is no doubt, however, that the future will show an improvement in the oyster industry if producers can compel the retailers to sell oysters for lower prices when they buy them at lower prices. It has been suggested that oyster producers ought to enter the retail field, if they want justice for themselves, and a greater distribution of oysters.

One of the greatest of scientists, who has been carefully studying the oyster, is of the opinion that the retailer does not make proper display of the oyster, that the retailer is not using modern methods for increasing consumption, that the volume of business would increase 30% if distribution to the consumer was in the hands of the producers. While oysters from the North have not equalled in bulk during 1931 the average of 1930, the loss from this cause has been many thousands of dollars. That, however, is something which the producer cannot regulate; it is due solely to nature.

If the oyster industry is to continue to do business at a fair profit, some drastic methods will be required in order that conditions may equal those of the year 1930.

The lowering of oyster prices has not been confined alone to the North; it has extended as far South as Texas, where oysters are extremely small in size, averaging 350 to 400 to the gallon and where the falling off in price was over 100%. As in the North the retailers of the Southern oysters exacted the high prices of 1930 from the consumer.

POLLUTION OF PUBLIC WATERS

THE SITUATION with regard to pollution of the tidal waters of the State continues to improve. One of the most serious forms of pollution, that resulting from the pumping of bilges from oil-burning vessels into the inland waters of Chesapeake Bay, has been greatly improved, if not entirely eliminated. Several years ago, after much agitation on the part of the northern Atlantic States, which were the chief sufferers from pollution caused by oil-burning ships, which developed so rapidly during the World War, Congress passed an act making

it an offense to pump bilges, except at sea. The enforcement of this law was placed under the U. S. Army Engineers, who, in cooperation with the proper agencies in each state, now control this type of pollution. Very few violations of this law now occur in Chesapeake Bay.

The next most serious form of pollution is that caused by industrial wastes from manufacturing plants located on tidewater and sewerage from towns similarly located. According to the annual report of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering of the Maryland State Department of Health, for 1931, one of the most important developments in the sewerage field for the year is the creation, by an act of the 1931 General Assembly, of the Annapolis Metropolitan Sewerage District, which comprises all the drainage areas of Back Creek, Spa Creek, Dorsey's Creek, and the parts of the drainage areas of Weems Creek and the Severn River. The communities of Annapolis, Eastport, Germantown, West Annapolis, Wardour, and the U. S. Naval Academy all contribute to the pollution of the water areas in this vicinity. The Sewerage District, which is under the jurisdiction of a commission of five members, three appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen of Annapolis and two by the Commissioners of Anne Arundel County, has been organized and considerable preliminary engineering work accomplished. The undertaking will probably cost about $700,000. A number of other towns on both sides of the Bay have installed sanitary and storm-water sewers and are making every effort to take care of their sewerage by means other than the simple expedient of dumping it into the public waters, where it is a menace to both health and marine life of our waters.

As for industrial wastes, the most interesting example of what can be accomplished preventing the pollution of our waters from this source is illustrated by the present condition of the waters of Curtis Bay. This area, where a number of large manufacturing plants are located, notably the Davison Chemical Company, the U. S. Industrial Alcohol Company, and other fertilizer and similar industries, presented a serious problem in 1922. A careful survey was made by the Conservation Department and the State Department of Health to determine the extent of the pollution. The condition of the water was so bad that bathing therein was no longer possible, fish life had been exterminated, and the United States Coast Guard threatened to abandon their station located in this section.

A happy solution was worked out by having certain officers of the companies contributing to this condition appointed on

a commission to clean up the area. The State Department of Health was able to point out the possibility of obtaining valuable by-products from the waste which was going into the waters of Curtis Bay, and not only polluting the water but the air as well. These suggestions were accepted and acted upon, and while the cost of installing the necessary machinery was considered expensive at the time, the value of the by-products thus salvaged has long ago offset the cost of the apparatus. Today conditions in Curtis Bay have improved 100% and fish and crabs are once more found in these waters.

Another serious area of pollution near Baltimore was at Bodkin Creek, where the City Garbage Disposal Plant was established. Probably no form of pollution was more offensive and caused more agitation than the waste from the city's garbage. Recently, however, the Mayor and City Council arranged for all garbage to be handled through an incinerator, which will be located nearby, and no further waste will go into the public waters.

In the inland waters of the State, a serious condition confronts the Department in the upper Potomac, from Keyser, West Virginia, to Washington, D. C. In addition to sewerage from the towns located on the Potomac, we have serious manufacturing wastes to deal with. In 1929, the State Department of Health recommended that the group of industries contributing to the pollution of the Potomac, organize and sponsor an analytical study of the problems. Quoting from the report of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering for 1931 on this subject: "The services of the Bureau were offered in supervisory capacity, and in the fall of 1929, after preliminary discussions, this group was formally organized as 'The Upper Potomac River Board.' The program adopted comprised complete chemical analyses of the river water weekly and the establishment of stream gauging stations at selected points between Luke and Cumberland. That group, consisting of the Kelly-Springfield Tire Co., the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co., the Celanese Corporation, the Potomac Edison Co., and the City of Cumberland, agreed to finance the work and the U. S. Geological Survey contributed a portion of the expense of establishing the gauging stations and provided for supervision and control of their operation. The Health Department assumed entire supervision.

"At the close of 1931 the first report of the Upper Potomac River Board summarized the activities and results of two years' work. Marked improvements in the condition of the river in this area appeared despite exceed- [*Turn to Page* 14

MARYLAND FISHERIES

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT,
SWEPSON EARLE, Commissioner.

No. 16

MAY, 1932

MARYLANDERS LOSE FIGHT TO SAVE SPONGE CRAB IN VIRGINIA

A VERY IMPORTANT DELEGATION of men which included Swepson Earle, Conservation Commissioner of Maryland; Messrs. John T. Handy, Robert Harrison, and Herman A. Woodfield, of the Advisory Committee of the Conservation Department; Mr. Joseph H. Healy, of the Maryland Development Bureau and Baltimore Association of Commerce; Mr. R. H. Fiedler, Chief of Division of Fish Industries of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries; as well as Messrs. Isaac Tawes and C. A. Loockerman, sea-food packers of Crisfield, appeared before the Governor of Virginia on March 25, to request his veto of H. B. 371 passed by the Virginia Assembly.

This bill, as reported in the March issue of MARYLAND FISHERIES, permits the taking of the sponge or egg-bearing female crab in the waters of Virginia during the months of April, May, and June.

In addition to the Maryland delegation opposing the bill, the following Virginians also appeared to register their protests: Messrs. William A. Burckhard, president of the Virginia Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America; and W. L. Fentress, president of the Norfolk Chapter of the same organization.

The hearing before Governor Pollard was arranged by Hon. Albert C. Ritchie, Governor of Maryland, following several protests by the Maryland Conservation Commissioner to the Commissioner of Fisheries of Virginia, while the bill was still pending in the Virginia Legislature.

Those who favored the bill included Commissioner of Fisheries Richard Armstrong, Delegate Earl Cadmus, patron of the bill, and Delegate Alvin Massenburg in defense of the packing industry of Hampton, Norfolk and Portsmouth. Their

contention was supported by S. S. Costen and G. T. Elliott, Hampton packers.

The Conservation Commissioner of Maryland, who led his delegation, made the following statement before Governor Pollard:

"Your Excellency:-

"We appreciate the courtesy you have extended Maryland in permitting us to come before you today to ask your veto of House Bill 371, passed by the General Assembly of Virginia, and now before you for your signature.

"While my attention was first called to the fact that a bill had been introduced in the House making it lawful for 'any person holding a proper license to take or catch sponge crabs from any of the waters of the State at any time from April first to June thirtieth, both dates inclusive, in any year, notwithstanding any provision of any existing law to the contrary,' I thought there must be some mistake, and requested a copy of the bill to be sent to me.

"On receipt of this bill, I at once sent a wire to Commissioner Richard Armstrong, protesting on the part of Maryland the passage of this bill, as it would nullify the agreement made in 1925 by official committees appointed by the Governors of the two states to agree on crab legislation which was successfully passed in 1926. Copy of this telegram and other papers will be delivered to you.

"In reply to my wire, the Virginia Commissioner stated he could not find any record of the agreement mentioned, and would appreciate a wire stating when this was made and by whom. In response to this request, I answered, giving dates of the meeting when ex-Governor Trinkle and Governor Ritchie met in Annapolis (November 14, 1924), copy of the minutes of which are here before me; and following this meeting joint committees were appointed and at a session on the Potomac River, held July 14, 1925, an agreement was reached to protect the female crab bearing the egg sponge at all times in the waters of both States.

"Following this meeting an invitation was extended to visit Hampton to attend a sea-food mass-meeting on August 18, 1925, and at this meeting it was attempted to pass a resolution to block the agreement of the joint committee. At this meeting ex-Governor Trinkle was present, and when the question came up as to the value of the sponge crab, it was stated that it had a monetary value of 2c. The Virginia Governor then asked what the production of a sponge crab was, and when it was brought out that one crab was capable of producing 160,000 young crabs, it was urgently requested that the Hampton committee withdraw their resolution. This was carried out. Mr. O. A. Bloxom, who was chairman of the joint committee, was present on this occasion and made a very strong stand against the destruction of the sponge crab, and assured the Maryland committee that the passage of the measure would go through in the following year when the Virginia General Assembly met.

"I might say that this legislation was carried through. The committee, which included Mr. James McMenamin, of Hampton, one of the State's largest crab packers, assisted in this work. This legislation, which was passed in 1926, was not brought about in an easy way. It required many years of investigation and work on the part of conservationists of the two states, in order that it should pass. The recommendations of the Maryland Conservation Department in connection with crab legislation go back to 1906, when the first act for the protection of crabs was passed. In 1911, at the request of the late Governor Crothers, I made

an investigation of the situation in Maryland waters, and reported that if something was not done to protect the female crab, the industry could be destroyed. My recommendation was considered absurd, as it was the general opinion of those engaged in the industry that the crab, which was very plentiful at that time, could not be destroyed.

"In 1916, however, an act was passed in Somerset County to protect the sponge crab at all times in our waters. At this same session it was also made a State-wide measure, and I was sent to Virginia to see what could be done to protect the sponge crab in those waters. At a conference in Richmond, which was a long-drawn-out affair, there was much opposition from Hampton interests, which claimed that the female crab taken in the lower Bay was not pregnant with eggs, although Virginia did agree to regulate the taking of sponge crabs during part of the summer, which was not a vital period for the sponge crab down in Virginia waters.

"The U. S. Bureau of Fisheries was asked to make a careful investigation of the crab industry of Chesapeake Bay, and Dr. H. C. Churchill was accordingly detailed for this work. At the completion of his investigation, it was found that crabs taken in Virginia *were* pregnant with eggs. I have a record of an investigation made by Dr. R. V. Truitt, of the University of Maryland, of 60 crabs shipped from Virginia by Mr. James McMenamin, and in every case he found the female oval-shaped crab to contain spermatozoa from the male crab, and by taking these crabs and keeping them in a fenced-off area in salt water until the spring, they all developed the egg sponge the following May.

"While these investigations were convincing, it was not until the crab supply commenced to fall off in Virginia, as well as Maryland, that the Virginia legislators seriously considered the matter. In 1925, the crab supply in Maryland had been so reduced that the northern zone of migration did not extend beyond the Great Choptank River, or 60 miles south of Baltimore. Soft crabs were in the luxury class and sold as high as $3.75 per dozen that year in the City of Washington. In 1925, according to the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries report, the production was 18,531,994 pounds. A newspaper article, which I have with me, dated January 14, 1926, reads as follows:

> 'This is the summary of the findings of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, made after a year's careful study of the crab industry, and referred to recently in a warning from Secretary Hoover that the industry is in danger. In his statement Mr. Hoover pointed out that the total blue-crab catch in Maryland and Virginia waters, the main haunt of this delicacy, had decreased from more than 50,000,000 pounds in 1915 to less than 25,000,000 in 1924. The Bureau made two recommendations to save the industry: First, that the taking of sponge or egg-bearing female crabs be prohibited at all times; second, that at least a 30% reduction in all forms of crab fishing be imposed.'

"When the crab legislation was passed in Virginia in 1926, a bill was introduced and passed the Senate, which was sponsored by Senator Downing, of Lancaster, to set aside about three-tenths of the lower area of the Chesapeake Bay as a sanctuary for mother crabs at all times of the year. Dredging would be prohibited in this area. (Copy of newspaper article from Virginia under date of March 8, 1926, described this bill.)

"While this proposed sanctuary would have more rapidly increased the supply of crabs in Chesapeake Bay, it was the opinion of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, in which the State of Maryland concurred, that if the sponge crab was protected, it was believed that the supply would increase sufficiently to take care of the demand.

"Maryland and Virginia have endeavored to carry the sponge-crab

law out. The late W. McDonald Lee, who was Commissioner when the act was passed, was followed by Colonel Harry Houston, of Hampton, and then by Judge Chinn, of Warsaw. All of these Commissioners cooperated to the fullest extent with the State of Maryland in this work, and in 1929, the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries report showed an increase in the crab production in Virginia waters of over 12,000,000 pounds in four years.

"If House Bill 371 should become a law, which in the opinion of Maryland nullifies an agreement which was officially made between the two states, it would have a tendency to break down the close cooperation which has been achieved after many years of endeavor. For instance, the Potomac River Compact of 1785 did not provide for proper police protection in this river, and it was not until 1912, after representatives from the two states had spent sixty or more thousand dollars going back and forth to work out an agreement, was this accomplished. In the meantime, millions of dollars worth of sea food had been wasted. This signing of the compact in 1912 led to better understanding in 1916 when the Conservation Commission of Maryland was created. Since that time, the two states have endeavored to carry out legislation protecting migratory fish, and in every way have worked in accord. The policing in Potomac River is now being carried on with better results than in the history of the fishery departments of the two states. In 1930, the Commonwealth of Virginia passed an act to close the Potomac River to dredging. In 1931 Maryland concurred in this act, in order that the depleted oyster rocks of this river might have a much needed rest and enable them to be rehabilitated for the citizens of both states.

"It would seem, therefore, a very backward step at this time to place a bill like House Bill 371 on the statute books of Virginia. Hampton interests claim as their reason for sponsoring the bill that they have more crabs than they can market, but to destroy the mother crab, instead of marketing the increased supply, is very short-sighted indeed. The Government figures will show that we are importing from Japan over 60% of the crab meat consumed in the United States. The quick-freezing process, which has been developed in recent years, has enabled the shippers of Gulf Coast shrimp to send their product over the entire country, and we are convinced that crab meat can be handled in a similar way and shipped to the West Coast to supply a considerable part of the trade that now goes to Japan.

"One very important phase of the increased crab supply must also be taken into consideration, and that is, that during the past two years we have had mild winters, abnormal winters, with very little ice and freezing weather. This has saved a large quantity of crabs that would ordinarily be destroyed during this season of the year. This mortality under normal conditions will give us a stable production, provided the sponge crab is protected.

"What the two states need today is closer cooperation in marketing and a wider market for this valuable sea food. I recently took this matter up with Commissioner Armstrong, of Virginia, and he thought well of the plan, provided the machinery could be placed in motion. I might say that we have already laid our plans for wider publicity on the products of Chesapeake Bay, and in this work Virginia will share the benefits.

"It would be criminal, in my opinion, to attempt to reduce the supply of crabs by destroying the female in the sponge state. It must be remembered that Dr. Churchill's investigation showed conclusively that the entire Chesapeake Bay is necessary for the development of the crab. The young crabs, after hatching in the waters of Virginia, migrate to Tangier Sound, where they shed and grow in the grassy bottoms of that body of water. They remain in Maryland until they reach maturity,

usually two years, or on completion of 15 sheddings. Maryland protects the crab in winter by having a closed season from November until May. Eighty per cent of the female crabs, after mating in our waters, return to the lower Chesapeake, where the saltier water of that region develops the eggs. Virginia permits the taking of crabs, which includes the female pregnant with eggs, by heavy dredges from December until March, and it is only the females escaping the winter dredging that produce the egg sponge in April, May, and June and thereby maintain the supply. Now to destroy that crab will put us in the same position as in 1926, when the supply was threatened with extinction."

The Commissioner then called on Messrs. C. A. Loockerman and Izaac Tawes, well known sea-food packers of Crisfield, who are interested in the conservation of the crab in Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Tawes presented to Governor Pollard a petition which was secured through Wallace M. Quinn, another sea-food packer, from a number of crabbers and crab packers located on the Rappahannock and in Accomac County, Virginia, opposing the sponge-crab bill and asking for its veto.

Without doubt, Mr. Fiedler, of the Bureau of Fisheries, made the most convincing argument from the Government's view-point. In protesting the signing of this bill, Mr. Fiedler stated that the production of crab meat had increased more than 100% in pounds in the Chesapeake Bay region during the past six years, and when the question of increased employment was brought out, he had statistics which showed an increase of more than 1,100 men engaged in the crab industry in Virginia during the past two years.

Those arguing for the bill stated that the lower Bay was discriminated against, due to the fact that the sponge crab was so plentiful during April, May, and June that it seriously interfered with the trot-line crabbers, and it was impossible to segregate them from the other crabs.

When the value of the sponge crab as compared with the male crab was discussed, the representatives from Hampton insisted that this crab was a very valuable one during the early spring, as the demand was heavy at that time.

While Governor Pollard made no definite statement at the close of the conference, it was later learned that he signed the bill and it became effective April 1.

This backward step on the part of Virginia not only endangers the crab industry of the Chesapeake but discriminates against Maryland citizens, who are not permitted to use the sponge crab in packing-houses of Maryland.

The Maryland Conservation Commissioner conferred with the Attorney-General on the subject, but for the present nothing can be done. It is the opinion of the U. S. Bureau of Fish-

eries that the crab supply for 1932 will not be affected by this legislation, but a late report from the lower Bay shows that a large quantity of crabs was destroyed during the March storms of this year, and this may affect the supply in the Upper Bay. In former years storm conditions and ice caused a heavy mortality of crabs in the lower Bay, and without proper protection to the sponge crab, the supply in Chesapeake will surely be reduced.

MORE NEWS ON THE TROUT SEASON

FROM A. M. POWELL, superintendent of the State Fish Hatchery at Lewistown, Frederick County, comes the following report on the trout season in that county.

"Fishing and Hunting Creeks, as usual, are being very heavily fished. The first day of the season brought 600 fishermen on Fishing Creek at 6:30 A.M., and at that time 105 automobiles were parked at one place on the stream. Everyone caught brook and rainbow trout. Very few got the creel limit, but all seemed satisfied because of the size of the fish. Every day since the opening there have been not less than 25 fishermen on each of these streams and they all catch a few. There are quite a few large rainbows left, but it requires a skilled angler to induce them to take a bait. We have received many complaints that the streams are fished out, but I have seen many large trout myself in these two streams, and about the only kind of bait they will take is a fly. We are getting many anglers from other states, especially the District of Columbia. More women are fishing this year than usual. Fishing in Frederick County has been very good this season, and as we stock at intervals, I am sure the season will last much longer than in former years. Today, April 28, we stocked Fishing Creek and Hunting Creek with 4,870 brook and rainbow trout from 7 to 18 inches, and we still have more to plant as the season advances."

Mr. F. L. Bentz, of Hagerstown, ardent fisherman and member of the Hagerstown Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, reports that fishing has never been better in Washington County. He states that streams were very swollen in the early part of the season and some fishermen were unsuccessful, but nice creels of good-sized trout are now being taken. Many strangers have been attracted to the county because of the unusual size of the trout.

Mr. Bentz says: "I feel that four or five trout, 15 to 18 inches long, mean more than 10 small ones. They always

speak of the large ones. Yesterday a man living here who has visited most all the states in the country told me he enjoyed the trout fishing in Washington County better than all the streams he had ever fished. The best record so far has been from Marsh Run. We have a record of over 300 trout taken from this stream alone. St. James Run is not far behind, and still has many good trout in it. Frank, Junior, and myself have caught some nice trout—our record so far being: 18-inch rainbow, 2 lbs.; 17-inch rainbow, 1½ lbs.; 16½-inch rainbow, 1¼ lbs.; 15½-inch rainbow 1¼ lbs.; 15-inch brown, 1¼ lbs.; 12-inch brook."

From Elmer Haulenbeek, Fish and Game Warden on Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County, comes the report that fishing in that county has been better than usual. A good many legal-sized *native* brook-trout have been taken from Bear Creek. The prettiest basket of fish taken from this creek was by a fisherman from McClellandtown, Penna., and contained: Two native trout, 9″; five planted trout, 11″; and one brown trout, 17½″. This latter trout has probably been in the creek for about two years, says Mr. Haulenbeek, and put up a great fight. Little Youghiogheny Creek and Harrington Creek have also afforded some good catches, as well as White Rock and Salt Block Creeks. Two ladies fishing in Deep Creek Lake caught a 15½ and 14½-inch speckled trout, respectively. The Savage River has also afforded some good fishing.

POLLUTION OF PUBLIC WATERS

(*Continued from Page* 7)

ingly low flows incident to an unprecedented drought. Development of valuable by-products and stimulation of cooperation among the members of the group in a more satisfactory utilization of the resources of the river have resulted."

It will be noted, therefore, that there is a growing tendency to clean up the waters of the State. In addition to towns and cities, manufacturing plants and oil-burning ships, the unsightly condition of many of our inland streams is due to private citizens who indiscriminately dispose of their rubbish and waste by dumping it into some convenient stream nearby. Such deliberate or heedless disposition of waste not only gives many streams an unsightly appearance, but also constitutes a health hazard, and all persons who indulge in this practice should be reminded that the public waters are the property of all and not for their sole convenience.

STATE STEAMER "TECH" DESTROYED BY FIRE

THE STEAM YACHT "Tech" which was given to the State of Maryland by Mrs. Alice du Pont, of Delaware, a year ago, and which became the flag-ship of the Maryland Oyster Patrol Fleet, was destroyed by fire on April 13.

The "Tech" which was placed out of commission last November, (the State Steamer "Governor McLane" being used for winter work), was carefully housed at the shipyard of Unger & Mahon at Bear Creek. The Department was arranging to put the Steamer "Tech" in commission and had sent certain men from the Steamer "McLane" to do temporary work before bringing her to Spedden's for hauling out. The origin of the fire is not known, but it was thought to be the result of an explosion caused by the varnish remover in use by the crew. Fortunately, no lives were lost although the men in their efforts to extinguish the fire and leave the vessel had a narrow escape.

The loss of the "Tech" is deeply regretted by the Department, particularly as she was a gift to the State and had been changed to meet the requirements of the Service, with the exception of heating arrangements for winter. A certain amount of the equipment of the Steamer was stored on shore during the winter and this escaped loss by fire.

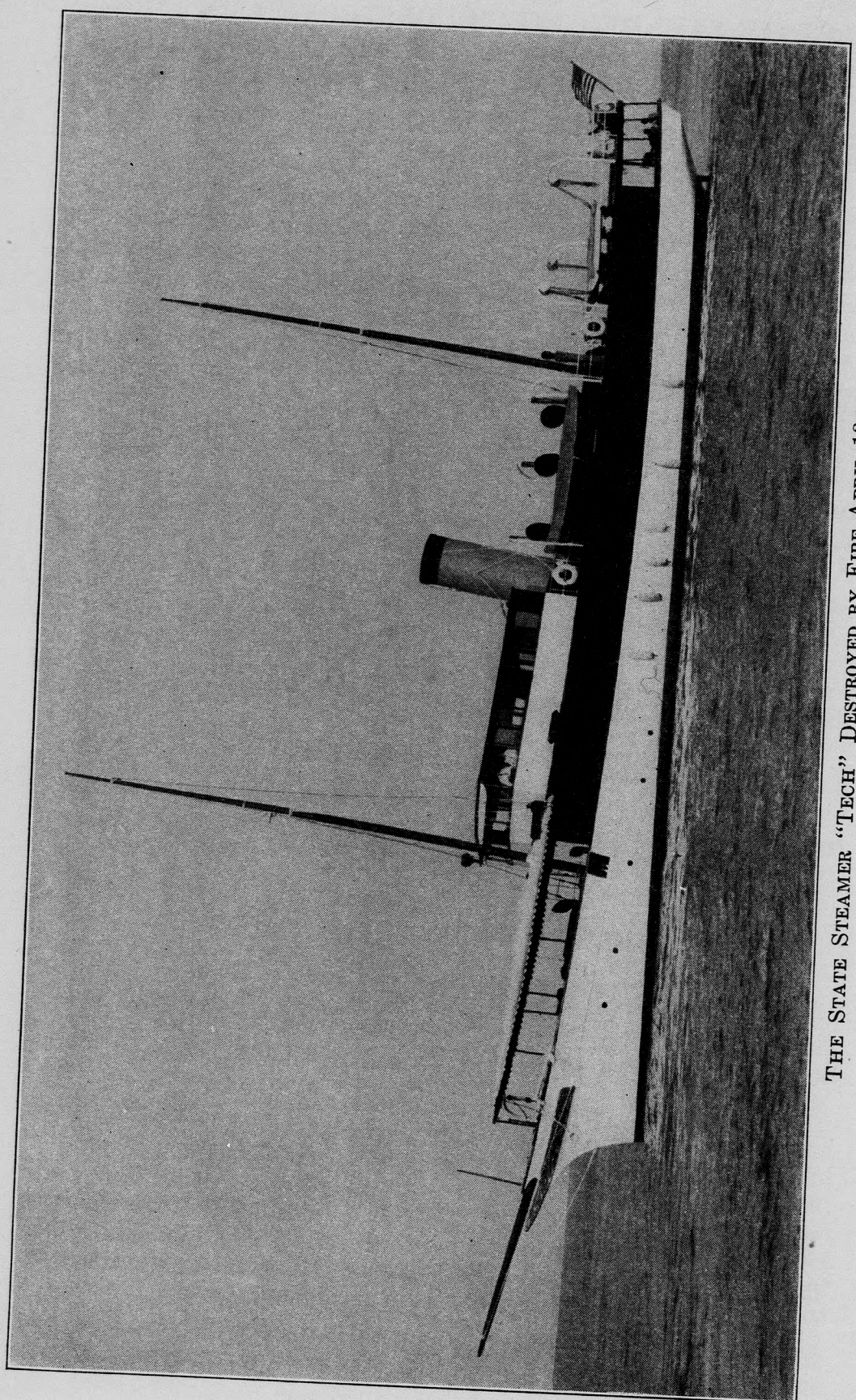
Fortunately the State had sufficient insurance to purchase another boat as it was not deemed expedient to rebuild the "Tech." The hull and engine which were intact have been turned over to the Conservation Department for disposition.

SHELL-PLANTING OPERATIONS

At the time of going to press a check-up on shell-planting operations for the season shows more than 85% of the shells have been distributed over the depleted oyster bars in a number of localities of Maryland waters in the Chesapeake.

The increased production of oysters during the past season has added to the shell piles of packers, and the Department has not only had an ample supply of shells to meet its requirements, but was unable, under our Shell Budget Appropriation for 1931-1932, to take all the shells available. However, we have done our utmost to relieve the packers of their shell piles in order that their shell deposit space will not be congested at the beginning of the oyster season next September.

The shells this year have been unusually clean and free from mussels, and should offer the best spat collectors during the spawning season.



THE STATE STEAMER "TECH" DESTROYED BY FIRE APRIL 13TH